



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024/5

YOUTH ANTI FGM KENYA  
(YANK)

**"This report outlines the milestones we have reached, the challenges we have encountered, and the lessons that will guide our continued efforts."**







# Table of Contents

<b>FORWARD</b>	<b>01</b>
<b>CHAIRPERSON - BENAZIR MOHAMMED</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>NATIONAL COORDINATOR- KEEGAN KAGWE</b>	<b>04</b>
<b>WHO WE ARE, MISION, VISION,CORE VALUES</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>2024 AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>06</b>
<b>WHY MOVEMENT BUILDING</b>	<b>07</b>
<b>SPOTLIGHT</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>OUR APPROACHES</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>POLICY ADVOCACY</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>DIGITAL ACTIVISM</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>MENTORSHIP</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>IMPACT STORIES</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PARTNERS</b>	<b>22</b>



## Dear Partners in Progress,

On behalf of the Youth Anti-FGM Network Kenya (YANK), I am pleased to share with you our Annual Report.

This report outlines the significant milestones we have achieved, the obstacles we have faced and the key takeaways that will shape our future strategies. It is a powerful reflection of what is possible when youth-led movements are nurtured and when collective action becomes more than just a concept but lived reality.

**Benazir Mohamed**  
**Chairperson,**

We are especially grateful to our strategic partners Orchid Project and The Anti-FGM Board for walking this journey with us. Your continued support and collaboration have played a crucial role in amplifying our impact on the ground.

To the fearless youth advocates who continue to challenge harmful norms, to our dedicated volunteers who show up without fail and to the tireless Steering Committee and Secretariat whose behind-the-scenes efforts make our vision possible, thank you. Your commitment fuels our movement and strengthens our resolve.

This report is more than just a summary of activities. It is a tribute to the power of purpose-driven leadership, shared responsibility and unwavering hope. I invite you to read it with pride in what we have accomplished and optimism for what lies ahead.



**Keegan Kagwe**  
**National Coordinator**

## Dear Partners in Progress,

This Annual Report reflects our shared determination to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and uphold the rights of girls and young women across Kenya. Together, we have championed a vision of a society where every young person is free to dream, lead, and thrive—free from violence and harmful practices. While progress has been made, the statistics remain sobering.

Nationally, FGM prevalence stands at 14.8%, with rates as high as 97.2% in Wajir, 95.9% in Mandera, and 82.5% in Garissa. Rural communities remain disproportionately affected. 44,320 girls still lose their lives each year to this practice one every 12 minutes. These figures underscore the urgency of our mission.

This report outlines the milestones we have reached, the challenges we have encountered, and the lessons that will guide our continued efforts. It stands as a testament to the power of youth-led movements and the undeniable impact of collective action.

Despite strong legal frameworks and community interventions, a critical funding gap threatens our momentum. Of the \$2.75 billion needed globally to end FGM by 2030, only \$300 million is currently available. The challenge is great, but so is our resolve.

At the heart of this movement are young people from all 22 FGM hotspot counties who continue to lead with courage, innovation, and purpose. Their advocacy has inspired communities, influenced policy, and elevated the urgency of this work across national and global platforms.

Even as we reflect on our progress, we recognize that the journey ahead requires sustained commitment. The continued existence of FGM in many parts of Kenya calls for us to remain united, innovative, and steadfast. Ending FGM is not only about eliminating a harmful practice it is about safeguarding bodily autonomy, dignity, and justice for every girl and woman.

As you read this report, I invite you to reflect on the collective strength that has brought us this far and the role each of us must continue to play in shaping a future where every girl is safe, empowered, and free.,



# Our Vision

A society free from FGM where young people can translate their aspirations and dreams into fulfilling lives.

# Our Mission

To galvanize youth momentum through advocacy, capacity building, knowledge sharing, and innovations for social change to end FGM.



The Youth Anti FGM Network Kenya (YANK) is a dynamic, youth-led network composed of youth, community-based organizations (CBOs), and youth-led NGOs. Established in 2015, YANK initially focused on the abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Kenya. Today, it encompasses a broader scope, addressing child marriages and gender-based violence (GBV). With members from 22 counties with high prevalence rates of FGM, YANK has established strong community links and empowered young people to advocate for the reduction and elimination of harmful practices affecting Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH).

## Core Values



**PARTICIPATION**



**INNOVATION**



**YOUTH RIGHTS**



**ACCOUNTABILITY**



**COLLECTIVE ACTION**

# 2024 at a Glance

107K people  
reached on Social  
and digital media



1015 + youths  
capacity  
strengthened

2 National  
Knowledge sharing  
workshops



## Annual Impact



4,044+ Adolescent  
girls and boys  
mentored

1 Launched chapter



45+ new  
Collaborations



2,716+  
Community  
members reached  
through  
community  
dialogues



4210+ youths  
Engaged



## Why Movement Building?

At the heart of our mission lies a deep commitment to the belief that lasting and impactful change occurs when young people come together to lead, advocate, and take action. In the campaign against female genital mutilation (FGM), we understand that true transformation happens when communities especially youth mobilize around shared goals and a collective vision for a future free from harm. Movement building is not just a strategy for us; it is the foundation of everything we do.



Through movement building, we are fostering a new generation of activists and advocates who will lead the charge for change, ensuring that the fight against FGM remains a priority for future generations. When youth are empowered to take action, they build a movement that transcends borders, adapts to new challenges, and evolves as the needs of the community change.



The Network launched its Meru Chapter in February 2025 marking its 18<sup>th</sup> chapter of the 22 hotspot counties in Kenya, coinciding with the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM. Under the theme "Stepping Up the Pace: Alliances and Building Movements to End FGM," the event emphasized the role of youth in advocacy and community-driven interventions.



It brought together 30 youth leaders from Meru, Igembe Central, area where FGM is prevalent to discuss FGM eradication, SRHR, GBV, child marriages, and digital advocacy.

The launch received support from key partners, including the Anti-FGM Board, Orchid Project, Jelida Foundation, Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage, and county government officials, reinforcing the commitment to ending FGM.





## Powering the Movement

Marking International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM 2025, we presented our official communique during the national celebrations to senior government representatives, including: Ms. Aurelia Chepkirui Rono, Principal Secretary, State Department for Parliamentary Affairs, representing the Prime Cabinet Secretary

Ms. Anne Wang'ombe: Principal Secretary, State Department for Gender and Affirmative Action  
This communique was the result of nationwide consultations with our youth chapters, and it carried three urgent calls to action:

A National Youth Summit on Harmful Cultural Practices, Increased resource allocation for youth-led movements, A high-level roundtable with His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya  
This moment marked a significant milestone in our advocacy journey — amplifying youth voices at the highest levels of government and affirming our rightful role in shaping the national agenda on ending harmful practices.

## Strengthening Our Global Alliances

In 2025, we were officially inducted as members of Girls Not Brides: The Global Partnership to End Child Marriage—a milestone that reaffirms our unwavering commitment to protecting the rights of girls and ending child marriage. Our membership was made possible through our role as the host of the Youth Advisory Panel under the Girls Not Kenya National Partnership, reflecting the strength of our youth-led advocacy and strategic engagement. This affiliation enhances our impact by linking us to a powerful global network of organizations dedicated to ending child marriage. Through this partnership, we are better positioned to scale our efforts, influence policy, and contribute to a unified global movement that champions the rights, agency, and well-being of girls everywhere.

## Breaking the blade campaign by Nguvu Collective

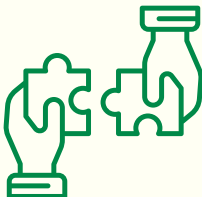
The network joined Nguvu collective in the launch of their national campaign dubbed #Breaking the blade. The campaign recognizes that the fight against FGM requires a chorus of voices from diverse players including young people. We emphasized on the much needed shift from merely engaging young people to actively allocating resources to support the movement.

## Our Approaches

### 1.Capacity building and Youth engagement

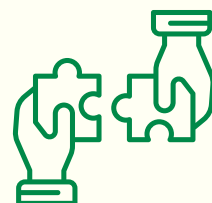
Knowledge being an instrumental factor, YANK has been committed to strengthening Meaningful and Inclusive Youth Participation (MIYP) of young people in decision making processes through building and strengthening their capacities on various fronts mainly focusing on advocacy, leadership, policy reforms, community engagement strategies and sexual reproductive health and rights.

#### Strategic partnerships:

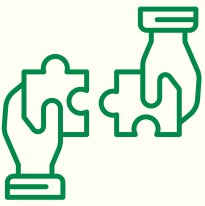


**YANK and Orchid project :** Throughout year, Orchid's support through a strategic institutional strengthening partnership facilitated the Network to convene two high-level national knowledge-sharing workshops, bringing together youth advocates under the age of 25 from across the FGM hotspot counties. These workshops served as dynamic platforms for amplifying lived experiences, fostering peer learning, and reinforcing a sense of collective purpose among young changemakers. Additionally, Orchid facilitated a series of targeted virtual workshops for county focal persons focusing on practical skills, resilience strategies and network building opportunities to enhance their advocacy work. Beyond the capacity strengthening workshop, Orchid Project has played a critical role in supporting the implementation of key elements of our workplan and institutional development. Their support has enabled us to launch our Meru Chapter, provided vital technical assistance, and continues to facilitate ongoing initiatives such as the development of our official website. This partnership has significantly contributed to strengthening our organizational capacity and expanding our grassroots impact.

**YANK and The Anti FGM Board:** Through its steadfast commitment to youth engagement in the Campaign against FGM, the Board provided critical support to the Network by facilitating youth-led activations across six counties. These efforts were instrumental in strengthening the agency, visibility, and leadership of young advocates within the Network, fostering locally-driven solutions to end harmful practices. Additionally, the Board played a pivotal role in the successful launch of the Meru Chapter, marking a significant milestone in the Network's sub-national expansion. This partnership not only amplified youth voices but also demonstrated the incredible support of the Government towards end FGM Efforts.







**YANK and the Samburu girls Foundation:** The samburu girls foundation supported the relaunch of the Samburu YANK chapter and strengthening of the chapter over a period of one year. The Foundation not only provided logistical and technical support but also facilitated community mobilization, training sessions, and stakeholder engagement to ensure the chapter's sustainability and local ownership. Through this strategic partnership, the network was able to fully develop and test out the samburu model including the mapping of villages and training of village representatives, looking ahead we are keen to evaluate this model and see the viability of scaling it up to other counties.

### From Survivor to Changemaker – By Linnet Kanjira, Focal Person, YANK Meru Chapter

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#### IMPACT STORY 1.0

I was born and raised in Meru, in a community where Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is not just a tradition it's a deeply held belief tied to a girl's worth and future. As a young girl, I was lucky to escape the cut, but escaping FGM didn't mean escaping its consequences. Because I didn't conform, I was treated as an outcast. I dropped out of school and became a mother at a young age, all while battling stigma, silence, and rejection even from my own family. For a long time, I believed my life had no value beyond what society dictated.

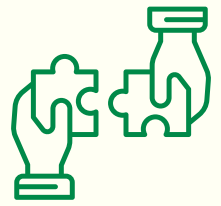
That changed when I joined YANK. Becoming part of this powerful movement reignited a spark within me. In June 2024, I attended a transformative National knowledge sharing workshop organized by the YANK and Orchid Project. Through it, I gained in-depth knowledge in Leadership, advocacy, Sexual reproductive health and rights, and the impacts of harmful traditional practices like FGM.

But even more powerful than the knowledge was the belief the movement had in me. YANK gave me the confidence and **courage to speak out not as a victim, but as a survivor and leader**. With their support, I returned to my community equipped to offer civic education at the grassroots level and to stand up fearlessly against intimidation and resistance.

One of the proudest moments in my journey was successfully **leading the launch of the very first YANK Meru Chapter**. What started as a dream became a reality, and it marked a major milestone for youth-led Anti-FGM advocacy in our region. As the Focal Person, I have since built a strong, inclusive platform that continues to educate and mobilize young people, elders, and leaders to abandon FGM and embrace gender equity.

From being neglected and silenced, I now hold leadership positions, including serving as a Youth Ward Representative at the county level. Each step has reinforced my belief in the power of youth-led change.

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**YANK and AMREF Health Africa:** As a long standing supporter of meaningful youth engagement and participation, AMREF through their FGM program have played a key role in strengthening the Narok chapter over the past one year through capacity strengthening initiatives. This has positioned the chapter as a leading advocacy group in the campaign against FGM. This partnership underscores the importance of recognizing that youth-led advocacy plays a key role in driving the cultural and social change necessary to protect girls and ensure their empowerment.

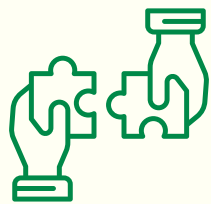
## **2. Grassroots mobilization and community engagement**

Our County Chapters have actively embraced intergenerational dialogue as a transformative tool, engaging men, women, youth, elders, and other community stakeholders in shaping change.

This inclusive approach has led to a noticeable shift in attitudes at both the individual and community levels, reinforcing efforts toward meaningful and lasting transformation. By prioritizing grassroots involvement and mobilization, the message becomes deeply rooted in the community, fostering a more resilient and sustainable movement against FGM.

### **Strategic partnerships:**

#### **YANK and Film Aid**

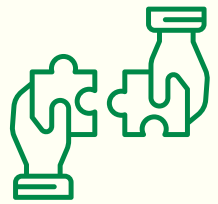


YANK partnered with Film Aid in Samburu County to conduct a series of impactful community dialogues at Lodokejek Ward, Samburu West Sub-County. The dialogues engaged a wide range of community groups, including men and boys (morans), community elders, and both men and women. The primary focus was on addressing traditional cultural practices, examining the roles of men and women, and discussing the harmful effects of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The dialogues provided valuable insights, revealing a community that is gradually transitioning from harmful practices to more progressive and empowering alternatives, such as increased agency for education.



## YANK and Sustainable Education for Nomadic Communities

In the northern region of Kenya, research shows that FGM is mainly persistent due to religious misconceptions. Community dialogues are therefore key to debunk myths associated with FGM and the Islamic religion. In partnership with the sustainable education for nomadic communities, the Mandera chapter hosted a series of youth dialogues designed to engage and educate youth while challenging deeply rooted cultural practices. Additionally, grassroots mobilization played a critical role in amplifying the reach of these dialogues. By involving religious and local leaders the initiative fostered a community-driven approach that encouraged active participation and long-term commitment to abandoning FGM.



### 3. Policy advocacy

In order for sustainable development on gender equality, health well being to be achieved, progress needs to be made in the key area of policies and laws. By engaging in these policy development processes, the network has not only contributed to the creation of a youth-inclusive policy but has also ensured that the voices of young people are heard at the decision-making tables, driving meaningful change at the community, national and global levels.

#### Our Impact:

##### GLOBAL

During the United Nations Civil Society conference, the network engaged in multiple impact coalitions, including the youth group, to advocate for stronger language on FGM and child marriage. The resulting Pact comprises 56 actions to accelerate progress on the SDGs. Notably, Chapter 4, Action 35c, emphasizes the need to end harmful practices like FGM and child marriage, recognizing them as critical barriers to achieving gender equality and safeguarding youth rights.



## National - Marsabit county anti FGM and child policy



Youth representation at the county level is crucial for ensuring that young people have a meaningful voice in decision-making processes, especially in matters that directly affect their rights and well-being. This includes representation in key structures such as the County Anti-FGM Steering Committee, Sub-County Steering Committees, and the Gender Technical Sector Working Group. Through active involvement in these committees, the network significantly contributed to the formulation of the Marsabit County Anti-FGM and Child Marriage Policy. This collaboration ensured that the perspectives and needs of young people were incorporated into the policy, strengthening its relevance and effectiveness in addressing FGM and child marriage.

### Influencing Regional Accountability Mechanisms

The Network took part in a landmark workshop in Lusaka, Zambia, aimed at operationalizing the African Union Gender & Youth Observatory (AUGYO)—an Online Knowledge Management Platform (OKMP) for tracking progress on regional and international commitments. Our participation focused on integrating Anti-FGM and other harmful practices indicators into AUGYO, ensuring these issues are central to monitoring frameworks such as the Maputo Protocol, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), and Agenda 2063. This engagement strengthened youth-led advocacy in shaping data-driven accountability across Africa.



### Universal Periodic Review

#### Engagement with UN Human Rights Mechanisms



We contributed to Kenya's 4th Cycle UPR shadow report, calling for action to finalize and fund the National Action Plan to End Child Marriage, close legal gaps on FGM, strengthen enforcement, improve SRHR access, and invest in data and strategies to address harmful practices.



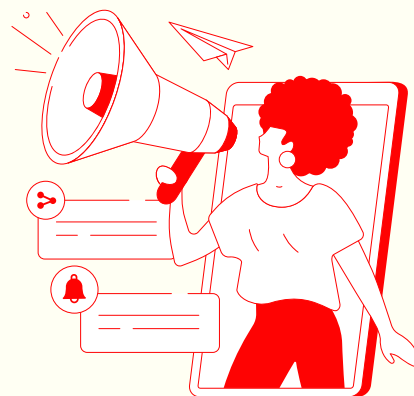


The Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act, 2011, remains a cornerstone of Kenya's legal response to FGM. While the Act criminalized the practice and enabled counties to adopt localized Anti-FGM policies, it has revealed structural gaps over time, particularly in enforcement and coverage.

The landmark *Dr. Tatu Kamau v. Attorney General & 2 others* (Petition No. 244 of 2019) challenged the constitutionality of the Act, bringing critical scrutiny to its reach and implementation. Although the High Court upheld the law, the case exposed underlying tensions between cultural autonomy and the state's duty to protect. In response, the Anti-FGM Board initiated a comprehensive review of the Act to align it with evolving human rights standards. YANK was formally recognized as a key stakeholder in this legislative process. Notably, the network is advocating for the inclusion of a youth representative on the Board of Directors—an unprecedented step toward institutionalizing youth leadership in national Anti-FGM policy-making. Despite pushback from some quarters resistant to youth inclusion, we continue to champion this provision as essential for intergenerational accountability and future-proofing Anti-FGM laws. Youth must not only be consulted but empowered to lead.

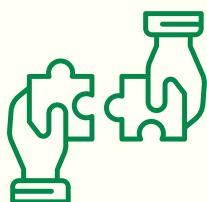
## 4.Digital activism

In this day and era, a conversation on youth activism is not complete without the question, how are you as young people leveraging technology in your day to day activism?. Since the inception of the network, digital activism has been the backbone of our work. Ranging from holding the government accountable on twitter to mobilizing youth action on Instagram and linkedln, digital activism is a big part of our identity.



### Strategic partnerships:

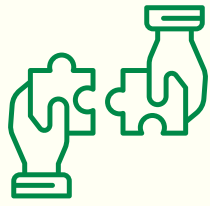
#### YANK and The Girl Generation Support To the Africa Led Movement



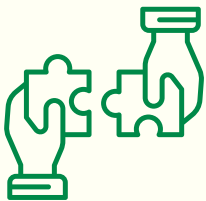
The partnership between YANK and The Girl Generation has spanned nearly 10 years, since the inception of the network. To mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM 2024, the chapter collaborated with The Girl Generation to host a global webinar in line with the years theme titled "Stepping Up the Pace: Building Movements to End FGM." This event brought together youth advocates, survivors, creatives, and policymakers. The webinar highlighted the intersection of technology and creativity in advocacy, emphasizing the need for innovative solutions to challenge deeply entrenched practices. This partnership underscored the importance of collective action and the role of diverse voices and approaches in the fight to end FGM.

## YANK and The Global Youth Movement to end FGM

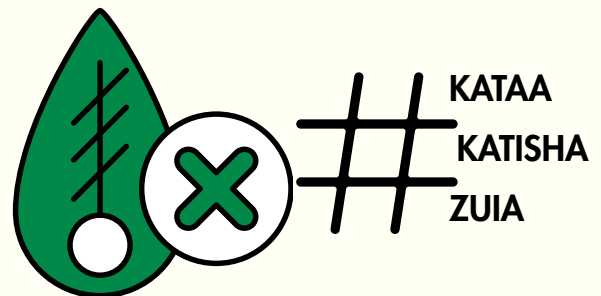
Collaboration with youth led initiatives lies at the center of the networks advocacy .The network collaborated with the Global Youth Movement to host a regional X space themed “Youth led solutions to end seasonal FGM: What works?”. The spaced aimed to explore how youth involvement is addressing the cross border challenges of FGM and actionable strategies for the future. One of the key takeaways from the conversation was the emphasis placed on increasing funding for youth-led research, in order to generate evidence-based solutions that can effectively inform and strengthen the fight against FGM.



## Digital Advocacy and Responsive Action



As part of our digital advocacy strategy, the Network leverages its social media platforms to respond swiftly to critical incidents impacting the fight against FGM. Through timely public statements, we raise awareness, mobilize support, and demand accountability. For example, following the attack on youth champions in Migori County by FGM supporters, we issued a public call to the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) to investigate and prosecute those responsible. The statement gained significant traction online, prompting action from key stakeholders. These digital interventions are vital tools for real-time advocacy, amplifying grassroots voices and holding duty-bearers accountable.



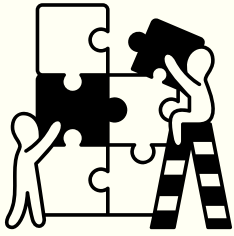


## Mentorship

In our collective fight against FGM, the role of adolescent girls and boys is undeniable . We cannot speak of the sustainability of our programs without the need to increase the agency of adolescents. To achieve the broad societal and cultural change necessary to end FGM, it is imperative to recognize and bolster the agency of adolescent girls and boys.



We aim to empower adolescents through education and engagement to allow them to take ownership of the issue, act as advocates for their own rights, and mobilize their peers. In doing so, they can catalyze a generational shift in attitudes toward FGM.



Matasaru Entoyie is a youth-led, women-led foundation based in the remote areas of Narok West. Unlike other sub-counties in Narok County, there are few actors and stakeholders operating within this region. As a member organization of the network, the foundation organized a large-scale mentorship summit, bringing together adolescent girls from Narok West and neighboring sub counties for a three-day intensive alternative rites of passage ceremony. This event was designed as an alternative to FGM, which is traditionally viewed as a rite of passage. During the summit, the girls participated in educational sessions on the harmful effects of FGM, teenage pregnancy, period power, life skills, advocacy, and leadership. The network contributed to the summit's success by providing human resources, ensuring its impactful execution.

### IMPACT STORY 2.0

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#### **Girls Leading Change in Their Schools In Narok West**

After the community awareness and girls' workshop sessions, a remarkable change unfolded in several schools we visited. Girls who once sat silently in classrooms, burdened by fear of child marriage and FGM, are now speaking up with newfound confidence. In Olkitimare Primary School, a group of girls started peer learning sessions, sharing knowledge they gained from the workshops with their classmates. They have formed a club called Girls for Change that meets weekly to discuss rights, education, and leadership.

Several girls have boldly reported cases where they were being pressured into early marriages, allowing intervention before harm could occur. Teachers note that the girls' participation in class discussions has improved significantly. Their courage has inspired even the younger students, creating a ripple effect. These young leaders are now role models in their communities, showing that education, awareness, and self-confidence are powerful tools to dismantle harmful traditions.

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### IMPACT STORY 3.0



**Philip Lekaaso, YANK Samburu Chapter  
Focal Person**

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Being elected as the Youth Anti-FGM Network Kenya Samburu County Focal Person marked the beginning of a transformative journey in my leadership. It gave me the responsibility to represent my county and lead efforts to address harmful practices like FGM through youth-led action.

Attending the national workshop organized by YANK National Secretariates with support of Orchid Project on June 2024 was eye-opening. I gained exposure to the broader anti-FGM movement and learned how youth can influence change both in communities and at policy level. This, along with other workshops and trainings, helped me grow in many ways. I developed strong leadership and team coordination skills by working closely with over 150 village representatives and forming active ward teams (SAMBURU COUNTY MODEL). I improved in public speaking, strategic planning, and learned how to effectively implement programs from start to finish.

Engaging with stakeholders taught me the importance of collaboration. I worked with community elders, government officials, schools, and CBOs, which helped strengthen the visibility and support for YANK Samburu. I also improved in report writing, advocacy, and learned to approach sensitive issues like FGM with cultural respect and understanding. Through my leadership, we organized school mentorship programs, anti-FGM community forums, and youth engagements on mental health, SGBV, and SRHR. A highlight was leading the ASEN Cultural Night pre-event where we educated fellow educated youths (university and college students) on key social issues.

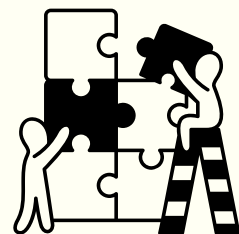
These experiences not only built my confidence and focus as a youth leader, but also allowed me to give back to my community in a meaningful way. I have mentored other young people, inspired open dialogue on harmful cultural practices, and helped promote the value of education and youth empowerment.

This journey has shaped me into a more effective, compassionate, and community-driven leader. I am proud of the progress we have made in making the Yank model active and impactful in Samburu.

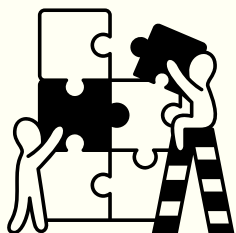
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## YANK In Migori County

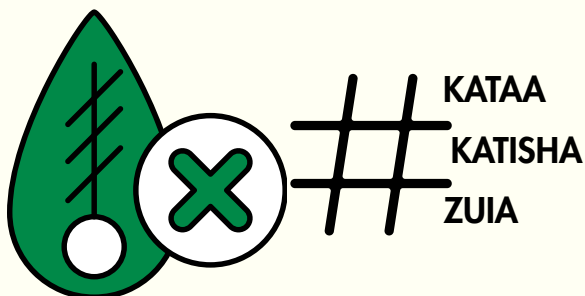
As the host organization for the Migori YANK chapter, the strategic partnership between YANK and Tunaweza Empowerment Kuria has proven to be a valuable and enduring collaboration. Over the past year, with the support of Tunaweza, the Migori YANK chapter has been conducting mentorship sessions for both in-school and out-of-school adolescents. One key best practice we have learned from the Migori mentorship model is the importance of involving adolescents in both the design and implementation of programs. This approach ensures that mentorship is tailored to the unique needs of each group, as there is no "one-size-fits-all" solution. Furthermore, the creation of safe spaces where adolescents can openly discuss sexual reproductive health and rights has proven to be an effective method for fostering meaningful conversations and promoting a deeper understanding of these critical issues.



## YANK In Elgeyo Marakwet



In the heart of Marakwet West, YANK mapped and launched its mentorship program at Chebara Primary. The main objective of this mentorship programme being to equip the adolescents with information to be able to prevent and report FGM incidences at the community levels, to equip them with life skills as well as start a tree growing initiative to boost school engagement program. Under the 'strengthening Alliances and Building movements to end FGM' campaign the chapter aims to address the intersectionality of climate change and FGM incidences in this particular area. This partnership underscores the importance of tailoring mentorship interventions to the unique needs of specific communities, ensuring that they are not only relevant but also effective in addressing the most pressing local issues.







## OUR IMPACT 2024:

In 2024, YANK grew stronger, louder, and more relentless. From Samburu to Siaya, Garissa to Kuria, young people stood at the frontlines of change—demanding justice, shifting mindsets, and protecting rights. Here's what we achieved together:

### 1. 18 County Chapters, One National Movement

We have now launched our county grassroots chapters to 18 counties, each led by young activists who are trusted by their communities and trained to drive change from within.

### 2. 7,775 youth Reached through Community Dialogues & School Activations

Our localized, youth-led forums brought the Anti-FGM conversation directly to schools, churches, mosques, and marketplaces sparking critical conversations in spaces where silence once prevailed.

### 3. 4 Policy Wins Influenced by YANK Advocacy

From county level action plans to contributions to the National Anti-FGM Policy review, YANK influenced meaningful changes by ensuring youth voices were not just heard but central.

### 4. The Samburu Model: A New Blueprint for Youth-Led Prevention

Piloted successfully, the Samburu Model empowered 50+ trained Youth Champions to mentor at risk girls, engage reformed cutters, and activate early-warning response systems now set to be replicated across hotspot counties

### 5. Global Visibility, Local Power

YANK represented Kenya's youth voice in global and regional spaces—pushing for youth-led accountability on harmful practices.

### 6. Young Survivor-Centered Support & Safe Spaces

Over 4,044 girls were reached through direct referrals, mentorship support, and linkages to services including psychosocial care, legal redress, and shelter partnerships.

### 7. 45+ Partnerships Strengthened

We built bridges with civil society, county governments, media houses, and community elders. Because ending FGM requires all of us, moving in one direction.

## Challenges

**1. Limited Funding for Youth Action:** While our network has demonstrated the powerful impact of youth-led initiatives against FGM, securing consistent and adequate financial support for these efforts has remained a significant hurdle.

### **2. Deeply Entrenched cultural and social Norms**

Despite multi-sectoral efforts, deeply rooted cultural and social norms continue to sustain the practice of FGM, hindering progress toward the 2030 goal of zero cases. These beliefs override legal and policy interventions, making change slow and complex.

**4. Sustaining meaningful youth engagement and participation:** despite efforts to advocate for the voices of young people to be heard and included in decision making processes, sustaining this has proved to be a challenge. This has led to limited youth ownership of interventions and missed opportunities to harness their potential as key change agents in the fight against FGM.

## Recommendations

### **1. Institutionalize Youth Leadership in National Anti-FGM Structures:**

Advocate for the formal inclusion of youth representatives on the Board of the Anti-FGM Board to ensure intergenerational leadership and sustainability.

### **2. Secure Flexible, Long-Term Funding for Youth-Led Organizations**

Most youth-led organizations operate under short-term, project-based grants that limit innovation and sustainability. We therefore call on donors and government partners to allocate flexible core funding and multi-year grants tailored to the unique needs, scale, and creativity of youth-led initiatives working to end FGM and promote SRHR.

### **3. Development of a guideline on meaningfully engaging young people**

The network is looking to develop a youth engagement guideline to be adopted by the Anti-FGM Board. It will provide clear, practical approaches for stakeholders to engage young people meaningfully, ensuring they are active contributors to decision-making processes.

# Acknowledgments

## YANK County Focal Persons

1. NAROK COUNTY
2. KAJIADO COUNTY
3. SAMBURU COUNTY
4. ISIOLO COUNTY
5. MARSABIT COUNTY
6. GARISSA COUNTY
7. MANDERA COUNTY
8. WAJIR COUNTY
9. ELGEYO MARAKWET COUNTY
10. WEST POKOT COUNTY
11. THARAKA NITHI COUNTY
12. MERU COUNTY
13. EMBU COUNTY
14. BARINGO COUNTY
15. TAITA TAVETA COUNTY
16. KISII COUNTY
17. NYAMIRA COUNTY
18. BUNGOMA COUNTY
19. MIGORI COUNTY

STANLEY SURUM  
KILENA MAPENAI  
PHILLIP LEKAASO  
FATUMA HUSSEIN  
ABDIAZIZ BORU  
BENAZIR MOHAMMED  
KHERRA ABDI  
OMAR YUSUF  
NEEMA JEPTOO  
IRENE CHEPKURUI  
LUREEN MAKENA  
LINET KIWANTHI  
MERCY WANJA  
MAUREEN CHERUTO  
FLORENCE CHELENJE  
CHRISTINE MOMANYI  
ASPION MAKORI  
TRIZZAH LUCHIRI  
SAMUEL MWITA

- YANK National Steering Committee
- YANK National Secretariat
- YANK National Technical Advisors

## Partners

The Samburu girls foundation

Orchid Project

Film Aid

UNICEF Kenya

The Girl Generation-  
support of the Africa Led  
Movement

County Governments

AMREF Health Africa

The Anti FGM Board  
Kenya

**FAWE KENYA**

**Equality Now Africa**

**Sustainable education for  
nomadic communities**

**Girls Not Brides-The Global  
Partnership to End Child  
Marriage**

**UNFPA**

**American Bar Association**

**Kechei Centre**

**Nguvu Collective**

**World Vision**



**@YOUTHANTIFGMKE**



**@YOUTHANTIFGMKE**



**@YOUTHANTIFGMKE**



**youthantifgmkenya@gmail.com**